

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 13, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-13 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1 and 13 are being amended to correct formal errors. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections

Claims 1-2, 6, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0219163) in view of Ito (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0174111). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites that an image display device comprises: a pixel having a light emitting device which is driven to emit light on the basis of a display signal current; a display unit constructed by a plurality of said pixels arranged in a matrix; a signal line for passing said display signal current to said pixels; write pixel selecting means for selecting at least one row or column of said pixels to which said display signal current is to be passed via said signal line from said plurality of pixels; and display signal current generating means for generating said display signal current, wherein said write pixel selecting means has a function of selecting N rows or columns of pixels simultaneously, N being an integer equal to or greater than 2.

In the device recited in claim 1, a display signal current (I_{sig}) is applied as a write signal. When N pixels are selected simultaneously, N lines are selected simultaneously. An electric current $I_{sig} \times N$ is supplied to prevent a current value distributed to each pixel from being unchanged. As shown in Fig. 1, for example, a signal-current generating circuit SGEN

writes a display signal current $I_{sig} \times N$ to a signal line 2 (page 11, lines 5-21 of the specification). The current distributed to each pixel is I_{sig} .

In contrast, as the Examiner admitted, Smith does not teach that the write pixel selecting means further includes a function of simultaneously selecting N rows or columns of pixels, and N is an integer equal to or greater than 2. Ito shows applying a Multi-Line Selection (MLS) driving method to a passive matrix liquid crystal display (STN-LCD). In the MLS driving method, a plurality of lines emit lights simultaneously and displays gray-scale image as an average value of emitting lights. However, the type of the liquid crystal display in Ito is a passive matrix liquid crystal display. In a passive matrix liquid crystal display, a voltage signal is applied as a write signal. Indeed, Ito shows that the voltage $+V_x$ is applied to the signal electrode 212 for a period in accordance with the conversion data D_t (Abstract). The same voltage $+V_x$ is applied to all of the pixels 130 connected with the signal electrode, regardless of the number of the selected lines N. Consequently, even if the number of lines selected increases, the write signal $+V_x$ is not affected by the increase in the number N.

None of Smith and Ito teaches or suggests each and every element recited in claim 1, and therefore, combination of Smith and Ito does not render the device recited in claim 1 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

Claim 13 has substantially the same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to a pixel having a light emitting device which is driven to emit light on the basis of a display signal current; a display unit constructed by a plurality of said pixels arranged in a matrix; a signal line for passing said display signal current to said pixels; write pixel selecting means for selecting at least one row or column of said pixels to which said display signal current is to be passed via said signal line from said plurality of pixels; and display signal current generating means for generating said display signal current, wherein said write pixel selecting means has a function of selecting N rows or columns of pixels simultaneously, N is an integer equal to or greater than 2. As such, the arguments set forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 1 being allowable, claim 13 must also be allowable.

Claims 2, 6

As to dependent claims 2 and 6, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being

allowable, claims 2 and 6 must also be allowable.

The Second 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Smith in view of Ito, and further in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Pub. 2004/0016924). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

As set forth above, combination of Smith and Ito fails to teach all the elements recited in claim 1, from which claim 7 depends. The secondary reference of Yamada fails to provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that make up for the deficiencies in the combination of Smith and Ito. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would and could not embody all the features of the invention as recited in claim 1, from which claim 7 depends. Accordingly, claim 7 is not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claim 12 is allowed. Applicants further thank the Examiner for holding that claims 3-5 and 8-11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, as to dependent claims 3-5 and 8-11, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are equally applicable. The base claim being allowable, claims 3-5 and 8-11 must also be allowable in the form of a dependent claim.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

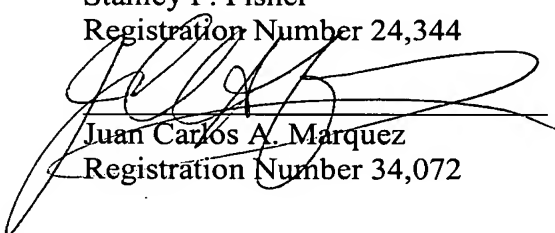
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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